

2002 Working Group Protocol

Area V Protection of Nature and the Organization of Reserves of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources

American and Russian Area V project leaders and participants met March 27-29, 2002 in Washington, D.C. to review exchanges carried out in 2000-2001 and agree on activities for 2002. The following Work Plan was adopted (NOTE: Wherever possible, principal participating U.S. and Russian agencies/organizations are indicated; see Key to Abbreviations on page 13):

Project 02.05-11, Conservation of Wild Species of Fauna

The work of this Project is carried out under five Activities:

Activity 02.05-1101, Implementation of the U.S.-Russia Convention Concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Environment

This Activity coordinates implementation of the bilateral Convention between the United States and U.S.S.R. (Russia) Concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Environment (1976), and promotes the protection and study of the more than 200 species listed in the Appendix to the Convention.

1. In the 3rd quarter of 2002 the two sides will issue a jointly prepared statement reporting on implementation of the Convention for the Years 1993-1998 (MBM, MBM-7; VNIIPrirody, BBRC/IEE).

2. A North Pacific Migratory Bird Conference will be held the week of September 9-13, 2002 in Vermont, U.S. Approximately 75 participants from the two countries (as well as Canada, Kazakhstan and Ukraine) will review the results of joint migratory bird studies over the last ten years and set priorities for future cooperation (FWS, USGS, USFS; Minprirody, BBRC/IEE).

Activity 02.05-1102, The Study and Conservation of Cranes, Raptors and Other Rare Birds

This Activity seeks to maintain stable reproducing populations of rare and endangered species of birds in the wild by encouraging conservation of critical habitat, and through educational outreach and scientific collaboration.

I. Cranes:

In the 3rd quarter of 2002, the two sides will implement a special conservation project aimed at assisting the recovery of the western population of the Siberian crane. The effort will focus on teaching the cranes to migrate between Kunovat, Russia and southwestern Asia behind an ultralight aircraft and hang glider. This experiment will adapt and be patterned after similar techniques used successfully with endangered whooping cranes in the U.S. (ICF; VNIIPrirody)

II. Raptors:

A report will be completed on the results of a September 1999 joint survey of birds of prey migrating past the southern tip (Cape Lopatka) of the Kamchatka Peninsula. Species observed included peregrine falcons, merlins, Eurasian kestrels, northern harriers, common buzzards, sparrowhawks, northern goshawks, as well as one gyrfalcon and one white-tailed sea eagle. (RRTAC; KIE)

Activity 02.05-1103, The Study and Conservation of Polar Bears

This Activity coordinates implementation of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population, and promotes research on the biology and seasonal movements of polar bears.

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for one week in February 2002 for consultations in Anchorage and to attend meetings of the Standing Committee of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN) and the Nanuuq Polar Bear Commission. (MMM-7; VNIIPrirody)
2. 7-8 American specialists will visit Russia for several days in early June 2002 for talks in Moscow on implementation of the bilateral Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population signed in October 2000. (R7; Minprirody)
3. Representatives of the Alaska Nanuuq Commission and Chukotka Union of Marine Mammal Hunters will meet in the second half of 2002 (location to be determined) to conclude a companion Native-to-Native subsistence use agreement to the U.S.-Russia Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population.
4. In February 2002 American and Russian polar bear specialists will hold a workshop in Alaska to standardize data collection on harvested polar bears, including biomonitoring, tagging of parts and entering information into computer databases. Participants from Russia will include representatives of the Government of Chukotka and the Chukotka Association of Traditional Marine Mammal Hunters. (MMM-7; Chukotka TINRO)

(Activity 02.05-1104, “Protected Natural Areas,” has been redesignated as Project 02.05-51)

Activity 02.05-1105, Cooperation among Zoos in Captive Breeding of Rare and Endangered Animals

This Activity fosters cooperation among zoos of both countries to preserve genetic diversity of rare and endangered animals raised and maintained in captivity, seeks to educate the public on the role of zoos in species survival, and promotes the conservation of animal species in the wild, together with their habitats.

In 2002 the two sides will continue to exchange and disseminate information on research conducted in zoos of both countries. Animal transfers will be carried out in strict compliance

with the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The species to be studied or exchanged and participating zoos are:

1. Long-term cooperation between the Moscow Zoo and Brookfield Zoo (Chicago) will continue in the management, veterinary treatment and breeding in captivity of walruses, Pallas cats and Galapagos tortoises.
2. In 2002 the San Diego Zoo will send to the Moscow Zoo a pair of takin, one bongo and a pair of gorillas.
3. In 2002 the Moscow Zoo will send rare Caucasian vipers to the San Antonio and Fort Worth Zoos in exchange for Mexican and pit vipers; and a pair of Pallas cats to the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound (California) on breeding loan.
4. Moscow Zoo personnel will continue to be active members in the Chicago Herpetological Society and American Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians.

Activity 02.05-1106, Conservation and Management of Marine Birds

This Activity is the means by which the U.S.-Russia Marine Bird Working Group coordinates joint seabird and shorebird studies.

1. Seven Russian specialists will visit Anchorage for one week in March 2002 to take part in a workshop on Important Bird Areas of Beringia whose purpose is to review candidate sites important to priority avian species and their habitats, discuss threats to birds from contaminants and other sources, and develop an integrated international approach to study and data collection. (MBM-7, Audubon; BBRC/IEE, VNIIPrirody, MSU)
2. One Russian specialist will visit Alaska for ten weeks in the summer of 2002 for field studies of seabird colonies on St. Lawrence Island. (MBM-7; BBRC/IEE)
3. One Russian specialist will visit Alaska for three months in the summer of 2002 for comparative field studies of reproduction and molting of auklets and parakeet auklets on Buldir Island. (MBM-7; BBRC/IEE)
4. The U.S.-Russia Seabird Colony Catalog database currently contains information on location, species composition and breeding population size for about half of the estimated 1,000 seabird colonies in the Russian Far East. In 2002 the data set for the Russian side will be completed and added to the catalog. (MBM-7; KIE, IBPN)
5. A U.S.-Russia Beringian All-Bird Working Group will be established in 2002. Its goal is to coordinate conservation, management, research and monitoring of more than 75 pan-Beringian species of seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and land birds shared by the two countries. The first meeting of the Working Group will be scheduled in 2003. (MBM-7; BBRC/IEE, KIE, IBPN)

Project 02.05-21, Beringia Conservation Forum

The Beringia Conservation Forum is a cross-project initiative bringing together biologists, conservationists and ordinary citizens representing a variety of disciplines, organizations, communities and points of view. It focuses on ecosystems and fauna/flora species common to the Bering Sea coasts and adjacent land areas of Alaska and Northeast Russia (Chukotka, Kamchatka) as well as the Aleutian, Commander and Kuril Islands. The Forum seeks to determine the causes of fluctuations in wildlife populations and the quality of their habitats. Special attention is given to the culture and traditions of indigenous peoples of Beringia. Certain exchanges conducted under Activities 02.05-1101, -1102, -1106, -5101 and -7102 also promote the goals of Project 02.05-21.

1. 15-17 Russian specialists will visit Kodiak, Alaska for one week in August 2002 to take part in the Fourth Meeting of the Brown Bear Working Group. Discussion topics include recreational viewing of bears, legal and illegal hunting, and development of effective public policy to manage those activities. (R7, Northern Forum; KIE)
2. In the 1990s the Aleutian Canada goose was successfully reintroduced in its former range in Russia's Kuril Islands. To continue the program and maintain genetic diversity 18 additional geese were captured on Buldir Island, Alaska in August 2001 and flown to Russia. In 2002, funds will be made available to the captive rearing and release facility on Kamchatka for needed repairs and purchase of special goose food. (R7)
3. In 2002 or 2003 the Russian side will invite four American specialists to take part in the development of management plans for Kronotskiy and Commander Islands Nature Reserves (Kamchatka). The possibility of pairing these reserves with sister U.S. refuges in the Aleutian Islands will also be discussed. (REF; Minprirody)

Project 02.05-31, Cooperation in Wildlife Trade and Law Enforcement

This project assists enforcement officials in the U.S. and Russia to address the problems of international wildlife commerce, with particular attention to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, or CITES.

1. Four American specialists will visit Russia for several days in the 2nd half of 2002 for consultations with the Russian State Fisheries Committee and Interagency Ichthyological Commission in Moscow for consultations connected with commercial trade in sturgeon caviar products under the CITES Convention. (LE, DMA, DSA; GLAVRYBVOD)
2. The two sides will continue to share information and arrange for travel of specialists as necessary in connection with questions of international trade and shipments of Caspian Sea sturgeon caviar. (LE; GLAVRYBVOD)

Project 02.05-41, Ecosystem Biodiversity

The work of this Project is carried out under three Activities:

Activity 02.05-4101, Biosphere Reserves

This Activity provides for monitoring of the natural processes in paired biosphere reserves of both countries, and facilitates exchange and sharing of data through the Man and the Biosphere information MABFlora, MABFauna, ACCESS and Biomass systems.

The two countries will undertake a comparative study of changes in climate parameters in forests (temperature, air pollution, precipitation) using epiphytic lichens as indicator species. Field work will be conducted in Maine (U.S.) and the Altai region of Russia. Project parameters will be defined in 2002, with exchanges of specialists the following summer. (University of Maine; Hydromet)

Activity 02.05-4102, Arid Ecosystems

This Activity promotes the study and conservation of critical arid land areas, and develops strategies for combating desertification and loss of water resources.

1. Two American specialists will visit Russia for one week in May 2002 to take part in an international Workshop in Elista on the Conservation Saiga Antelope, a species threatened with extinction due to habitat degradation and excessive harvest. (FWS; IEE)
2. One Russian specialist may visit the Office of Arid Lands Studies of the University of Arizona for 3-4 weeks for familiarization with GIS and other geographic and ecological monitoring tools to prepare for a survey of the watershed of the Selenga River (southern Siberia and Mongolia) and develop recommendations on establishment of a biosphere reserve there.

Activity 02.05-4103, Mountain Ecosystems

This Activity promotes the study and conservation of montane systems and their unique biodiversity.

The two sides will continue work on a monograph on comparative studies of the southern Appalachian (U.S.) and SW Caucasus (Russia) Mountains. (USGS; IEE)

Project 02.05-51, Protected Natural Areas

The work of this Project is carried out under two Activities:

Activity 02.05-5101, Protected Areas Management

This Activity provides for the comparative study of refuges and nature reserves and external factors affecting them, with emphasis on protection of rare and endangered species of fauna and flora.

1. Six American specialists from wildlife refuges and national parks will visit Khabarovskiy Krai, Russia for two weeks in September 2002 for familiarization with land use planning, visitor facilities and services, fire ecology, and threats to indigenous wildlife and their habitats in Bolshekheksirskiy, Komsomolskiy, Bolonskiy and Bastak Reserves. (REF; Minprirody)
2. The 5th Call for Proposals under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program of small grants to Russian reserves and parks will be conducted in the fall of 2002. Previous grants have supported the work of these protected areas through purchase of equipment and supplies, facilities repair and maintenance, and public outreach activities. Review panels in Russia and the U.S. will evaluate all applications, and winners will be announced in the spring of 2003. Awards will be a maximum of \$6,000 each. (FWS; Minprirody)

Activity 02.05-5102, Conservation Education

This Activity promotes public awareness of and commitment to the need to conserve wild species of fauna and flora and their habitats.

1. Ten Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for ten days in July 2002 to take part in a workshop, to be held at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia) and in the St. Louis area, on the design, production, and installation of interpretive exhibits at refuge and park visitor centers. (REF, R1; Minprirody, ZAPOVEDNIKS)
2. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. in the second half of 2002 for familiarization with the organization and operation of volunteer programs in U.S. national wildlife refuges. (REF; ZAPOVEDNIKS)

Project 02.05-61, Marine Mammals

This Project carries out cooperative research on the biology, ecology and population dynamics of marine mammal species shared by both countries, leading to the development of methods for the management and protection of these animals.

The 17th meeting of the U.S.-Russia Marine Mammal Working Group will be held at Listvyanka (Lake Baikal), Russia in September 2002 with the participation of 8-10 American specialists. A number of American specialists will also attend the International Conference on Marine Mammals of the Holarctic, immediately preceding the Working Group meeting at the same location.

I. PINNIPEDS

True Seals

1. Two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for 2-3 weeks in the second quarter of 2002 or 2003 to take part in the capture, telemetric tagging and tracking of ringed seals in the shorefast ice of the Beaufort Sea. (NMFS; VNIRO)
2. One American specialist will visit Russia for two weeks in September-October 2000 to conduct research in the Commander Islands on the population structure of harbor seals using biopsy sampling during the fall harvest period. (NMFS; Minprirody)

Eared Seals

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for three weeks in late 2002-early 2003 to take part in the capture and monitoring of Steller sea lions in Alaska. (NMML; KIE)
2. One or two American specialists will visit Russia for three weeks in July 2002 to participate in a census and tagging of Steller sea lion pups on haulout sites on Kamchatka, the Commander Islands and Kuril Islands. (KAMCHATRYBVOD; NMML)
3. One or two American scientists will take part in research on foraging behavior of northern fur seals in the Commander Islands, Russia for up to one month in July-August 2002. (Kamchatka TINRO; NMML)

Walrus

1. One Russian specialist will visit Nome, Alaska for one week in April 2002 to take part in a workshop on techniques for estimating the size of the overall Pacific walrus population by marking and recapturing. (MMM-7; Chukotka TINRO)
2. Five Russian walrus harvest coordinators will visit Nome for one week in June 2002 for additional training in monitoring subsistence taking of walrus in local areas of Chukotka and the Providenya Region. Data obtained from the eight primary walrus hunting communities help in evaluating the overall impact of humans on the Pacific walrus population. (MMM-7; Chukotka TINRO)
3. Between June-September 2002 two Russian specialists will conduct cooperatively supported studies of walrus abundance and age/sex composition on Meechkyn and Ruder haulouts in the Gulf of Anadyr. A report of data obtained will be prepared by the end of the year. (MMM-7; Chukotka TINRO)
4. American and Russian specialists will take part in a workshop on use of remote sensing in estimating walrus population abundance, to be held in conjunction with the International Conference on Marine Mammals of the Holarctic in Listvyanka, Russia in September 2002. (MMM-7, ASC; VNIRO, Chukotka TINRO)

Sea Otters

1. To identify the causes of the recent decline in sea otter abundance in the U.S. Aleutian Islands, it is important to study sea otter populations in adjacent areas. Accordingly, biologists from both countries will collaborate on ecological monitoring of the population status and health of sea otters in the Commander Islands of Russia. Sea otter observations and skiff-based surveys will be conducted on Bering and Medniy islands in 2002-2003. Over-winter mortality will be monitored and tissue samples collected from beach-cast carcasses on Bering Island. (MMM, ASC; KIE)
2. Plans are being discussed to hold the next (Eighth) Joint Sea Otter Workshop in Russia in the fourth quarter of 2002. Recent survey results and declines in sea otter abundance will be reviewed and future research needs identified. 6-8 American specialists will attend. (MMM; ASC; KIE; KAMCHATRYBVOD)

II. CETACEANS

Whales

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for 2-3 weeks in the second quarter of 2002 to take part in a census of gray whale cows and calves off Piedras Blancas, California. (SWFC; KIE)
2. One American specialist will visit Russia for one month in July-August 2002 to take part in monitoring and biopsy sampling of gray whales off the southeast coast of Kamchatka. (KIE; SWFC)
3. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for 3-4 weeks in the summer of 2002 to take part in shipboard surveys of right whales in the Bering Sea. (SWFC; TINRO)
4. During the period July-October 2002 Russian and 3-4 American specialists will continue monitoring and studying the Okhotsk-Korean population of gray whales in connection with oil and gas exploration and development activities off northeastern Sakhalin Island, Russia. (KIE; Kamchatka TINRO; SWFC)
5. In August-September 2002 Russian and 2-3 American specialists will continue joint studies of the Okhotsk population of bowhead whales in the region of the Shantar Islands, Russia. (KIE; TINRO; SWFC)

Project 02.05-71, Animal and Plant Ecology

The work of this Project is carried out under seven Activities:

Activity 02.05-7101, Conservation of Rare and Endangered Species of Plants and Comparative Studies of North American and Eurasian Flora

This Activity promotes cooperation among botanical gardens and arboreta in both countries, including exchanges of seeds and other plant materials endemic to each country for propagation and growing, and organization of joint botanical research and collecting expeditions.

In 2002 a new map of circumpolar arctic vegetation will be jointly published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Anchorage), Komarov Botanical Institute (St. Petersburg) and Earth Cryosphere Institute (Moscow). Among the parameters to be depicted on the map are topography, bioclimate zones, floristic subprovinces, dominant plant types, biomass and annual primary production.

Activity 02.05-7102, Northern Migratory Waterfowl

This Activity determines the nesting areas, migratory routes, wintering grounds, productivity and adaptation to environmental changes of geese, ducks and other waterfowl species, with particular emphasis on areas subject to human disturbance.

1. Under a bilateral Cooperative Agreement the Russian side will continue to monitor the status of and deploy metal leg bands on Wrangel Island snow geese. In preparation for this work, one Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for two weeks in March 2002 for consultations in Oregon on reproductive success, harvest mortality and survival rates of this species. (R1; Minprirody)
2. The two sides will co-sponsor a July 2002 aerial survey in northeast Russia of molting geese, eiders and other waterfowl in coastal and lowland areas of Chukotka. One American and two Russian specialists will take part in the survey, to be conducted from an AN-3 aircraft. (MBM-7; IEE)
3. For three weeks in July-August 2002 several joint boat joint surveys of non-breeding and post-breeding Steller's eiders will be conducted in the area of Kolyuchin Bay, Chukotka, Russia. Data on eider movements, behavior, habitat use and concentrations will be collected and evaluated. (MBM-7; RAS)

Activity 02.05-7103, Holarctic Mammals

This Activity studies the systematics and zoogeography of mammals of the holarctic, examines gene pool conservation in those species, and evaluates genetic variability in populations.

1. In 2002 up to three Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for 3-4 weeks each to conduct literature searches and work in the collections of mammal hair, small carnivorous mammals and sheep skulls and horns of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. (IEE; NMNH)
2. One Russian specialist will visit Alaska for three weeks in the fall of 2002 to study management of caribou and deliver lectures on the structure of reindeer herds in Russia. (ADF&G; IEE)

Activity 02.05-7104, Chemical Senses and Communication in Animals

This Activity investigates the functions and mechanisms of taste and smell. Areas of research include general ecology, physiology, immunology, endocrinology, biochemistry, carbohydrate chemistry, nutrition, behavior and genetics.

One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for three weeks in April-May 2002 to attend the annual meeting of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences (Sarasota, Florida) and continue studies of animal sensitivity to environmental chemicals at Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. (Monell; IEE)

Activity 02.05-7105, Application of Contemporary Technology in Ecological Studies of Large Mammals

This Activity develops joint methods for the collection and processing of remotely-sensed data in radar deposition, integrated processing of satellite data from telemetry and multi-deposition environmental remote sensing, and creation of data base structures and models for ecological studies of large mammals in arctic environments.

Three Russian specialists will visit Juneau and Fairbanks, Alaska for three months (June-September 2002) to complete data analyses and prepare manuscripts describing new methods of detecting and mapping sea-ice albedo and the duration of summer ice melt periods. (ASC; IEE)

Activity 02.05-7106, Wildlife Health and Disease

Wildlife in the U.S. and Russia share many common diseases of microbial, parasitic, and chemical origin. Migrations and translocations of certain species create conditions for the transfer of diseases between the two countries. This Activity provides for cooperation in wildlife health research and disease prevention.

In 2002 the two sides will continue to carry out veterinary consultations on exotic diseases of wildlife, including: rabies, distemper, anthrax, brucellosis, botulism, avian cholera and lead poisoning. (NWHC; VNIIPrirody)

Activity 02.05-7107, Invasive Species of Fauna and Flora

Invasive species are animals or plants which have been introduced into areas outside their native habitats, often resulting in environmental or economic damage. This Activity studies the impact of such species on ecosystems in both countries. In 2002 the two sides will publish in the English and Russian languages the Proceedings of the U.S.-Russia Invasive Species Workshop, which was held August 27-31, 2001 in Borok, Russia.

1. One American specialist will visit Russia for two weeks in the 3rd quarter of 2002 to continue work in Kazakhstan with Russian colleagues on comparative studies of riparian plants (*Tamarix*, *Eleagnus*, *Euphorbia*) native to Russia but invasive in arid lands of North America. (USGS; RAS)

2. American and Russian specialists from the USDA National Plant Data Center and the Komarov Botanical Institute (St. Petersburg) will collaborate on the development and dissemination of information on non-indigenous plants, including fact sheets and checklists of priority invasive species.
3. American and Russian specialists will undertake a project to identify and evaluate new potentially invasive aquatic species in freshwater systems of both countries. Detailed data sheets will be produced on the life history, distribution and impact of such species, and 5 to 10 of them will be selected for in-depth risk assessment. (FWS; RAS)
4. The effects of invasive aquatic species on large freshwater ecosystems will be the subject of the 2nd International Symposium on Ecologically Equivalent and Exotic Species of Aquatic Organisms in Large Lakes of the World,” to be held August 27-31, 2002 in Ulan Ude, Russia. 5-6 American specialists will present papers (cross referenced under Activity 02.05-8104). (USGS, Great Lakes Fishery Commission; RAS)

Project 02.05-81, Ichthyology and Aquaculture

The work of this Project is carried out under four Activities:

Activity 02.05-8101, Fish Culture, Nutrition and Disease

The purposes of this Activity are to improve fisheries management, increase productivity through intensive fish culture, restore fishery resources, and study and exchange information on the physiology, nutrition, diseases, genetics, and reproductive biotechnology of fish of mutual interest.

The two sides will begin planning for the 2nd U.S.-Russia Symposium on Aquaculture and Fish Health, to be held in the United States in 2003.

Activity 02.05-8102, The Study and Conservation of Sturgeon

This Activity seeks to promote the sound management of sturgeon populations in both countries. (Issues related to the 1998 listing of all sturgeon species in Appendix II of the CITES Convention are covered under Project 02.05-31)

1. One Russian specialist may visit the U.S. for up to one month in the 4th quarter of 2002 or early 2003 to work with colleagues at the USGS Columbia Environmental research Center (Missouri) on ecology of white and green sturgeon. (USGS; IEE)
2. A Russia-China-U.S. Workshop on Conservation of the Aquatic Resources of the Amur River, with emphasis on the endangered kaluga sturgeon, will be held October 29-November 3, 2002 in Khabarovsk, Russia. Approximately 6-8 American specialists will take part. (FWS, USGS; Khabarovsk TINRO)

Activity 02.05-8103, The Study and Conservation of Salmon

This Activity seeks to promote the sound management of salmon populations in both countries.

1. Three American specialists will travel to Russia in September 2002 for one month for familiarization with the culture and propagation of chum and coho salmon, as well as green sturgeon, on Sakhalin Island. Hatcheries to be visited include: Monetka, Lesnoi, Okhotskiy, Kalininskiy, Sokolnikovskiy and Yasnomorskiy. (FWS; SAKHALINRYBVOD)
2. Under an ongoing project to study and conserve steelhead salmon and other native fish species and their habitats on the Kamchatka Peninsula, scientists and volunteers from the Wild Salmon Center (Washington, Oregon) and Moscow State University will continue expeditionary field work on Kamchatka during the summer and fall of 2002 to collect and analyze samples and data.

Activity 02.05-8104, Comparative Studies of Fishes in Large Lakes of the U.S. and Russia

This Activity studies the ecology, focusing on comparative parasitology, of endemic fishes of the Great Lakes (U.S.) and Lake Baikal (Russia).

1. The effects of invasive aquatic species on large freshwater ecosystems will be the subject of the 2nd International Symposium on Ecologically Equivalent and Exotic Species of Aquatic Organisms in Large Lakes of the World,” to be held August 27-31, 2002 in Ulan Ude, Russia. 5-6 American specialists will present papers (cross referenced under Activity 02.05-7107). (USGS, Great Lakes Fishery Commission; RAS)

Project 02.05-91, Ecology and Dynamics of Arctic Marine Ecosystems

This Project, abbreviated "BERPAC" (“BERing Sea - PACific Ocean”), studies the status and dynamics of Arctic marine ecosystems, including their assimilative capacity, biological indicators of ocean pollution, and effects of human-caused disturbances, in order to establish scientific bases for predicting major ecological, geochemical and geophysical processes in the Bering and Chukchi Seas.

1. In 2002, the American side will publish the English language edition of a joint monograph presenting the scientific results of the September 1993 BERPAC expedition. (The Russian language edition was published in 2000.) (BRD, FWS; RAS)
2. The two sides will consider convening a symposium in the 4th quarter of 2002 or early 2003 to mark the 25th anniversary of the first BERPAC expedition aboard the Russian vessel “Volna” in 1977. Trends and changes in the Bering and Chukchi ecosystems over the past quarter century will be discussed, and directions for future research efforts decided. (BRD, FWS; RAS)

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ASC	USGS Alaska Biological Science Center, Anchorage
BARC	Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture
BBRC	Russian Bird Banding and Ringing Center, Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Chukotka TINRO	Chukotka Federal Fisheries Research Institute, Anadyr
DMA	FWS Division of Management Authority
DSA	FWS Division of Scientific Authority
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GLAVRYBVOD	Main Fisheries Directorate, Moscow
GLSC	USGS Great Lakes Science Center, Ann Arbor
IBPN	Institute of the Biological Problems of the North, Magadan
ICF	International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI
IEE	Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
KAMCHATRYBVOD	Kamchatka Fisheries Agency
Kamchatka TINRO	Kamchatka Federal Fisheries Research Institute
Khabarovsk TINRO	Khabarovsk Federal Fisheries Research Institute
KIE	Kamchatka Institute of Ecology, Russian Academy of Sciences
LE	FWS Division of Law Enforcement
Magadan TINRO	Okhotsk Federal Fisheries Research Institute
MBM	FWS Migratory Bird Management
MBM-7	Region 7 FWS Migratory Bird Management (Alaska)
Minprirody	Russian Ministry of Natural Resources
MMM-7	Region 7 FWS Marine Mammals Management (Alaska)
Monell	Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia
MSU	Moscow State University
NBBL	USGS National Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD
NMFS	U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
NMML	NMFS National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle
NMNH	Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC
NWHC	USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI
OKHOTSKRYBVOD	Okhotsk Sea Fisheries Agency, Magadan
PWRC	USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD
R1	FWS Region 1 (CA, ID, WA, OR, NV, HI)
R5	FWS Region 5 (Northeast U.S.)
R7	FWS Region 7 (AK)
RAS	Russian Academy of Sciences
RAS/FEB	Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
REF	FWS Division of Refuges
RRTAC	USGS Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center, Idaho
SAKHALINRYBVOD	Sakhalin Fisheries Agency
SWFC	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla
TINRO	Russian Pacific Federal Fisheries Research Institute, Vladivostok
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VNIIPrirody	Russian Federal Wildlife Research Institute, Moscow
VNIRO	Russian Federal Fisheries Research Institute, Moscow
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
ZAPOVEDNIKS	Zapovedniks Environmental Education Center, Moscow

“...the Parties shall work together to develop mutually agreed-upon policies in the field of protection of the environment and natural resources on a bilateral, regional and global basis.”

The **Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources** was signed on 23 June 1994 and supersedes the Agreement between the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection of 23 May 1972.

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“Efforts are underway to strengthen and broaden scientific cooperation from which both sides derive benefits.”

WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET ON U.S.-RUSSIA COOPERATION
MAY 24, 2002